

REMARKS

Applicants have considered carefully the rejections over prior art and respectfully traverse them for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as anticipated by Watanabe U.S. Patent 6,155,713. However, not all elements of the claims could be found in the reference. For example, claim 2 refers to a first track for the x-ray source and a second track for the x-ray receptor, and states that

said first and second tracks [are] spaced from each other.

An example is illustrated in Fig. 72, where track 728 for the x-ray source is spaced from track 730 for the x-ray receptor such that the two tracks do not overlap or touch each other. This is discussed, for example, at pages 45-46 of the application.

Claim 3 refers to a supporting structure for the x-ray source and to a track for the x-ray receptor, and states that “said track [is] spaced from said supporting structure for the x-ray source.” The same Fig. 72 illustrates this.

In contrast, in Fig. 4 of Watanabe the same track 4 is used for the x-ray source and the x-ray receptor. See column 5, lines 14-52. Fig. 7 also is not understood to show tracks for the x-ray tube and the x-ray receptor that are spaced from each other. Only the reference numeral 4 is used to designate a track, and the description of Fig. 7 starting at column 10, line 5 was not understood to refer to a track for the x-ray source that is spaced from the track for the x-ray receptor.

Applicants submit that this difference is important because, among other things, it allows for greater freedom in the relative positioning of the x-ray source and the x-ray receptor relative to a patient or a patient table.

Claim 1 was rejected as obvious over Negrelli U.S. Patent 6,200,024. The claim states that a “floor-supported column” supports the x-ray receptor, and Fig. 71 illustrates an example discussed at pages 44-45. In Negrelli, a ceiling-supported structure carries the x-ray receptor while the x-ray source is floor-supported. The patent not only fails to propose the opposite arrangement but insists that the actually proposed arrangement has an important advantage – to afford maximum access to the patient. See column 3, lines 50-57. Applicants

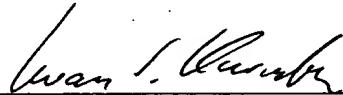
submit that Negrelli teaches away from this aspect of the claimed invention rather than suggest it.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a further telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this response and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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